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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/923,440	08/08/2001	Hideki Matsunaga	110331	9076

25944   7590   12/30/2005

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EXAMINER
LY, ANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2162	

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/923,440	MATSUNAGA, HIDEKI
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anh Ly	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>06 September 2005</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-18</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-18</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Office Action is response to Applicant's pre-appeal brief request for review

filed on 09/06/2005.

2.   Claims 1-18 are pending in this application.

Priority

3.   Should applicant desire to obtain the benefit of foreign priority under 35

U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) prior to declaration of an interference, **a translation of the foreign**

application should be submitted under 37 CFR 1.55 in reply to this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US

Patent No.: 6,839,843 B1 issued to Bacha et al. (hereinafter Bacha) in view of US

Patent No.: 5,926,824 issued to Hashimoto.

With respect to claim 1, Bacha teaches an object management method for

performing access control for a stored object (a method for performing access control

on the stored document in a database based on the access right of the retriever or

requestor or user: abstract, col. 2, lines 52-60, col. 9, lines 1-67 and col. 10, lines 30-

67); the method comprising the steps of:

setting an access right in association with the retrieval condition (access control

is enforced on stored object such as stored document in a repository or database:

abstract, fig. 5 and col. 8, lines 8-22 and lines 64-67, and col. 9, lines 1-35);

setting an identifier for identifying the object (identifier for the object or document

such as creation data or author or identity of document originator for identifying the

object or document: col. 3, lines 15-28); and

performing access control for the object and the identifier on the basis of the

access right (the user's access right to be checked whenever the document to be

accessed or searched: col. 10, lines 30-67 and col. 11, lines 1-20; also see col. 9, lines

1-35).

Bacha teaches access control for stored document based on the object identifier

for identifying the object and perform access control for accessing or searching the

document based on the retriever or user's access right. Bacha does not clearly teach

defining a retrieval condition for retrieving an object, the retrieval condition being defined

based on at least one attribute of the object.

However, Hashimoto teaches setting retrieval condition to retrieve a text or

document and setting retrieval condition by document attributes such as document

name, document creation date, document creator (fig. 10, col. 8, lines 1-22).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bacha with the teachings

of Hashimoto. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to

utilize the use of setting retrieval condition for retrieving an object stored in the database

based on the attribute of the stored object as disclosed (Hashimoto's fig. 10), into the

system of Bacha for the purpose of performing access control for object to be accessed

or searched matching the retriever's access right, thereby, helping to be easy for

retrieving a document in accordance with attributes of a document construction more

efficient (Hashimoto's col. 2, lines 42-45).

With respect to claim 2, Bacha teaches a method for performing access control

for a stored object as discussed in claim 1. Also, Bacha teaches performing a check,

when a request for access to an object occurs, to see whether the object meets the

retrieval condition, and controlling access to the access-requested object on the basis of

the access right that has been set in association with the retrieval condition (col. 9, lines

62-67 and col. 10, lines 1-12; also see col. 8, lines 12-24).

Bacha teaches access control for stored document based on the object identifier

for identifying the object and perform access control for accessing or searching the

document based on the retriever or user's access right. Bacha does not clearly teach

defining a retrieval condition for retrieving an object.

However, Hashimoto teaches setting retrieval condition to retrieve a text or

document and setting retrieval condition by document attributes such as document

name, document creation date, document creator (fig. 10, col. 8, lines 1-22).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bacha with the teachings

of Hashimoto. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to

utilize the use of setting retrieval condition for retrieving an object stored in the database

based on the attribute of the stored object as disclosed (Hashimoto's fig. 10), into the

system of Bacha for the purpose of performing access control for object to be accessed

or searched matching the retriever's access right, thereby, helping to be easy for

retrieving a document in accordance with attributes of a document construction more

efficient (Hashimoto's col. 2, lines 42-45).

With respect to claim 3, Bacha teaches performing a check, when a request for

access to an object occurs, to see whether the identifier of the object has been set in

association with the retrieval condition, and controlling access to the access-requested

object on the basis of the access right that has been set in association with the retrieval

condition if a result of the check indicates that the identifier of the access-requested

object has been set in association with the retrieval condition (col. 9, lines 62-67 and

col. 10, lines 1-12; also see col. 8, lines 12-24; and identifier of object such as creation

date, identity of document originator, etc..: col. 3, lines 20-28).

Bacha teaches access control for stored document based on the object identifier

for identifying the object and perform access control for accessing or searching the

document based on the retriever or user's access right. Bacha does not clearly teach

defining a retrieval condition for retrieving an object.

However, Hashimoto teaches setting retrieval condition to retrieve a text or

document and setting retrieval condition by document attributes such as document

name, document creation date, document creator (fig. 10, col. 8, lines 1-22).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bacha with the teachings of Hashimoto. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of setting retrieval condition for retrieving an object stored in the database based on the attribute of the stored object as disclosed (Hashimoto's fig. 10), into the system of Bacha for the purpose of performing access control for object to be accessed or searched matching the retriever's access right, thereby, helping to be easy for retrieving a document in accordance with attributes of a document construction more efficient (Hashimoto's col. 2, lines 42-45).

With respect to claim 4, Bacha teaches the identifier is changed according to need when addition, modification, or deletion of the object identified by the identifier is made (abstract, col. 3, lines 3-15, col. 8, lines 8-67 and col. 9, lines 1-35).

Bacha teaches access control for stored document based on the object identifier for identifying the object and perform access control for accessing or searching the document based on the retriever or user's access right. Bacha does not clearly teach wherein the association between the retrieval condition and the identifier object.

However, Hashimoto teaches setting retrieval condition to retrieve a text or document and setting retrieval condition by document attributes such as document name, document creation date, document creator (fig. 10, col. 8, lines 1-22).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bacha with the teachings of Hashimoto. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to

utilize the use of setting retrieval condition for retrieving an object stored in the database

based on the attribute of the stored object as disclosed (Hashimoto's fig. 10), into the

system of Bacha for the purpose of performing access control for object to be accessed

or searched matching the retriever's access right, thereby, helping to be easy for

retrieving a document in accordance with attributes of a document construction more

efficient (Hashimoto's col. 2, lines 42-45).

With respect to claims 5-6, Bacha teaches a method for performing access

control for a stored object as discussed in claim 1.

Bacha teaches access control for stored document based on the object identifier

for identifying the object and perform access control for accessing or searching the

document based on the retriever or user's access right. Bacha does not clearly teach

performing access control, if the access-requested object matches a plurality of retrieval

conditions, on the basis of OR of the matched retrieval conditions and performing

access control, if the access-requested object matches a plurality of retrieval conditions,

on the basis of AND of the matched retrieval conditions.

However, Hashimoto teaches setting retrieval condition to retrieve a text or

document and performing retrieval of a document matching within the retrieval condition

(figs. 10, 12 & 13, col. 8, lines 1-55 and col. 9, lines 2-35).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bacha with the teachings

of Hashimoto. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to

utilize the use of setting retrieval condition for retrieving an object stored in the database

based on the attribute of the stored object as disclosed (Hashimoto's fig. 10), into the

system of Bacha for the purpose of performing access control for object to be accessed

or searched matching the retriever's access right, thereby, helping to be easy for

retrieving a document in accordance with attributes of a document construction more

efficient (Hashimoto's col. 2, lines 42-45).

With respect to claims 7-8, Bacha teaches a method for performing access

control for a stored object as discussed in claim 1.

Bacha teaches access control for stored document based on the object identifier

for identifying the object and perform access control for accessing or searching the

document based on the retriever or user's access right. Bacha does not clearly teach

wherein the object is stored with attribute data, and the retrieval condition aims to

retrieve the object on the basis of the attribute data, and wherein the object is stored

with attribute data and a method for referring to an entity of the object, and the retrieval

condition aims to retrieve the object on the basis of the attribute data and the entity of

the object referred to by the method.

However, Hashimoto teaches retrieving the object based on the stored object

with attribute data to the retrieval condition (fig. 12, and col. 8, lines 40-67and col. 9,

lines 1-35).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bacha with the teachings

of Hashimoto. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to

utilize the use of setting retrieval condition for retrieving an object stored in the database

based on the attribute of the stored object as disclosed (Hashimoto's fig. 10), into the system of Bacha for the purpose of performing access control for object to be accessed or searched matching the retriever's access right, thereby, helping to be easy for retrieving a document in accordance with attributes of a document construction more efficient (Hashimoto's col. 2, lines 42-45).

With respect to claim 9, Bacha teaches wherein the access right is a specification about a user and an access type allowed to access the object (col. 9, lines 1-35 and col. 10, lines 30-65).

Claim 10 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 1 hereinabove.

Claim 11 is essentially the same as claim 2 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 2 hereinabove.

Claim 12 is essentially the same as claim 3 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 3 hereinabove.

Claim 13 is essentially the same as claim 4 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 4 hereinabove.

Claim 14 is essentially the same as claim 5 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 5 hereinabove.

Claim 15 is essentially the same as claim 6 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 6 hereinabove.

Claim 16 is essentially the same as claim 7 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 7 hereinabove.

Claim 17 is essentially the same as claim 8 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 8 hereinabove.
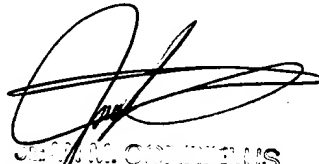
Claim 18 is essentially the same as claim 9 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 9 hereinabove.

Contact Information

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Ly whose telephone number is (571) 272-4039 or via E-Mail: ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV **or fax to (571) 273-4039 (Examiner fax number).** The examiner can normally be reached on TUESDAY – THURSDAY from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene, can be reached on (571) 272-4107 or **Primary Examiner Jean Corrielus (571) 272-4032.**

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see **http://pair-direct.uspto.gov.** Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Any response to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, or faxed to: **Central Fax Center: (571) 273-8300**

ANH LY
DEC. 22nd, 2005